

0096-45

Carol R. Riggs

532 Farragut Parkway
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
914-478-0751

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 10, 1997

Mr. Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 16 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Is there anything that can be done to stop the mandatory
takeover of television and cable broadcasting by high
definition TV?

In a breathtakingly-short period of time?

I resent the mandatory factor of this edict.

At its worst it will drill a deep hole in the pocketbooks of
most people.

At its best it will enable us to get a really sharp, clear
view of baseball players spitting.

Sadly,

Carol Riggs

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JAMES F. BURGETT
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1800 LINDENTHAL AVENUE
P.O. BOX 149
HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS 62249-0149
TELEPHONE 618-654-2106
FAX 618-654-5424

PATSY SCHWARM
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT - INSTRUCTION
DENNIS BRUEGGEMANN
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT - BUSINESS

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 9, 1997

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APR 16 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the superintendent of Highland Community Unit School No. 5, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

We are implementing technology throughout the district and we serve as a site of technology classes offered by our local community college. The current cost of access causes us to limit our growth and development in this area. We need to experience substantial discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Burgett".
James Burgett
Supt. of Schools

mg

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Jane O. Dion
8 Windsor Oval
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

April 4, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, DC 20054

RECEIVED

APR 16 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a faculty and technology committee member from Regional School District #17, Haddam-Killingworth, in Connecticut, and would like to thank you and the FCC Commissioners for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

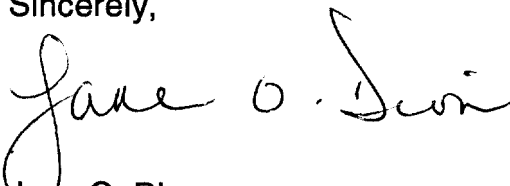
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. The plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Discounts provided through the proposed Joint Board's plan will enable our rural district of 5 schools to provide equal access to telecommunications in all schools and classrooms. We are extremely limited at this time due to telephone line charges being charged at commercial rates.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jane O. Dion

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OAK PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS • DISTRICT 97

970 Madison • Oak Park • Illinois • 60302
phone (708) 524-7623 • fax (708) 524-3019

Peggy Wilson, Director of Business

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Reed:

As a public school finance director, I have been advised that the Federal Communications Commission is soliciting feedback from educational institutions on the proposed Telecommunications discounts to be effective next month. Although the obvious tariff reductions (Internet access and regular line costs) are important to us, I felt that it was important that you know of two costly items which our local carrier, Ameritech, states are required through federal regulations.

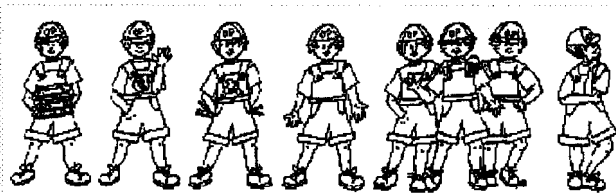
[1] During this past year the district installed a voice mail system to facilitate much needed communication between parents and classroom teachers. In our system, parents are able to call a central number, reach an individual teacher's mail box and leave a personal message about their child. We call this important communication tool Voice Link. What we didn't realize is that we would be required to pay a monthly tariff for the SMDI link which connects the Centrex system to our Verbatim Voice Mail software. This cost is over \$200 per month.

[2] We recently learned that although Oak Park has a 911 emergency system, any calls made from one of our Centrex lines is recorded as being made from our Central Office, where the District monthly bill is sent. Ameritech is charging \$4,000 for software for us to link the actual school address to each of our Centrex lines, and an additional \$.055 per month per line. I find this charge unconscionable. First and most important, I am amazed that we found out about this problem quite by accident (we had a "hang-up" 911 call from one of our elementary schools, and the police appeared at the District Offices). I believe that they have a moral obligation to let schools know how 911 calls in a Centrex system will be handled. And, I am amazed that they can charge a monthly fee for a service that, once the information is entered, has absolutely no ongoing maintenance costs.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you in your evaluation of reductions which schools should receive for telecommunication services. Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Peggy Wilson
Director of Business



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TURNINGPOINT

The Perfect Balance

9 April 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED
APR 16 1997
• 1300 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Post Office Box 49325
Los Angeles, California 90049
(310) 476-8585
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

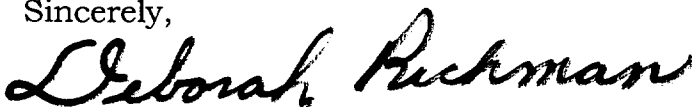
Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Deborah Richman, and I am the Head of School at the TURNINGPOINT School. TURNINGPOINT is an independent, coeducational elementary school in Los Angeles; I am writing because we are one of the many public and private institutions who benefit from your dedication to ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to all the educational opportunities afforded by the Internet. Each penny of the \$2.25 billion per year will directly benefit our country's children by bringing the most current technology and information into our classrooms. It is vital that you include discounts for internal classroom connections as well Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential to our children's education and future.

The cost of private education is rising at an enormous rate to try to compensate for the increasing and never-ending costs of computer technology, but independent schools like TURNINGPOINT would be unable to afford such essentials without these most important discounts for classrooms. Our students' futures depend on these telecommunications discounts. I strongly urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Deborah Richman
Head of School

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DR/mf

Notre Dame Academy

324 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401

(912) 232-5473

April 7, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

APR 16 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As Principal of Notre Dame Academy in Savannah, Georgia, I would like to express my appreciation for your dedication in making sure that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the chance to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities to our students who will usher in the 21st century. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of our schools, and more importantly, the plan will bring services directly into the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to this process. This plan is also essential in preparing our students for Work force 2000.

Currently, Notre Dame Academy has a computer lab that is 12 years out of date. Our school's technology plan is to up date and upgrade the equipment that is presently being used by our Kindergartners through eighth graders. If we are to meet the challenges of the 21st century, we need help. The "E-rates" would support what we are trying to do: provide a quality education to America's future citizens.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services to schools on Docket number #96-45.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sr. Carolyn Marie Betsch, C.D.P.

Sr. Carolyn Marie Betsch, C.D.P.,
Principal

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Wildwood Public Schools

4300 Pacific Avenue

Wildwood, New Jersey 08260

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Arthur Motz

Telephone: (609) 522-4157

Superintendent of Schools

April 8, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

As superintendent of the Wildwood Public Schools, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our district, having suffered budget defeats over the past five years, as well as a more recent defeated bond referendum, lacks the necessary additional funds which would allow us to upgrade our technology needs. The discount plan would make it possible to add an additional number of lines available for our students to use the internet.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely yours,



Arthur Motz
Superintendent

AM/cac

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APR 16 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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APR 16 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

4/8/97

Dear Commissioner,

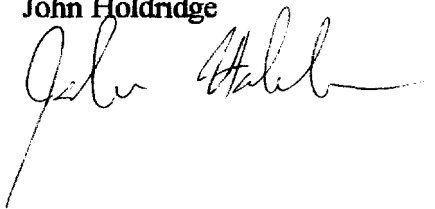
I am an Adult Basic Education Teacher for the Blackstone Valley Chapter of the Rhode Island Association of retarded Citizens in Pawtucket Rhode Island. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all libraries and places of education will have affordable access to the Information Super Highway. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will be able to make use of the educational opportunities available through the Internet. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly into the classroom. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

I urge you to include Adult Education Centers in your bill. Here at B.V.C. our adult learners currently use the Internet to look for jobs, research current events, keep up to date on legislation affecting their population group, and advocate for their rights. With discounts we would be able to better utilize our funds to ensure that more people receive more opportunities to learn.

Let me thank you again for the work you do. Please do not let the corporate giants who control the telecommunication system take away the effectiveness of the bill by implementing back -door proposals.

Of course they will claim that their profit margins will drop but we all know that in reality a billion dollar corporation can certainly weather a slight drop in the name of education.

Sincerely,
John Holdridge



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CC96-45

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APR 16 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C., 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

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We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Davis High
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Elayne J. Finlison	Mary Kueg
D.S. Dr.	Jean M. Watto
Dacia Whitesides	David R. Hennod
Gene Hall	Norma Sturgeon
J. Sutherland	
Wendy Jensen	
Jeffrey P. Holbert	
David K. Barnett	
J. Michael Shaw	
Mauro Stur	
Joan Hansen	Sufian Abu-Rma'leh
Ima Lomerman	Kathleen Doach
	Cindy Flint
	Marisa Hills
	Joan Swartz
	Pamela K. Coburn